

## Senate Resolution 991

By: Senators Fort of the 39th, Tate of the 38th, Harbison of the 15th, Reed of the 35th, Orrock of the 36th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring the life of Reverend Doctor James Edward Orange; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Reverend Doctor James Edward Orange was born in Birmingham, Alabama,  
4 on October 29, 1942, to the late Calvin and Ida Orange; and

5 WHEREAS, he was a graduate of Parker High School in Birmingham, Alabama, and  
6 attended the former Bishop College in Dallas, Texas, and was the recipient of a doctorate  
7 degree from the A. P. Clayton Theological College; and

8 WHEREAS, he was married to the former Cleophas Brown and they had five children and  
9 two grandchildren; and

10 WHEREAS, during his youth, he was very involved in the Civil Rights Movement and was  
11 one of the first field staffers hired by the late Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr., and  
12 was instrumental in mobilizing youth throughout the Civil Rights Era; and

13 WHEREAS, without Reverend Orange there might never have been a march from Selma to  
14 Montgomery, Alabama, the march that began the train of events that led to passage of the  
15 Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

16 WHEREAS, the death of Jimmie Lee Jackson, killed by an Alabama state trooper while  
17 protesting the incarceration of Reverend Doctor Orange, who had been jailed for registering  
18 new voters, is regarded as one of the triggers for that famous march; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1968, he was responsible for bringing over 300 bus loads of participants to  
20 Washington, D. C., for the Poor People's Campaign, which led to the establishment of the  
21 food stamp program; and

1 WHEREAS, Reverend Doctor Orange was blessed with exceptional organizational skills and  
2 used those skills in various labor movements, including a hospital workers strike in  
3 Charleston, South Carolina; a sanitation strike in Memphis, Tennessee; the J. P. Stevens  
4 campaign in Milledgeville, Dublin, and Tifton, Georgia and Louisville, Kentucky; Justice  
5 for Janitors in Atlanta, Georgia; campaigns in Tupelo, Mississippi; the worker's campaign  
6 in Birmingham, Alabama; and the state workers campaign in Alabama; and

7 WHEREAS, Reverend Doctor Orange developed, organized, and directed grassroots,  
8 education/mobilization campaigns that led to the passage of the Workplace Fairness bill;  
9 developed and directed a regional conference on "Organizing Workers' Rights and Coalition  
10 Building"; coordinated the "Stop the Violence" conference in Atlanta, Georgia; created and  
11 supervised the Atlanta Olympic Community Intervention Team; and accompanied Bill Lucy  
12 to Brazil for the INSPIR and CUT convention; and

13 WHEREAS, he retired from the ALF-CIO labor organization and served as a mediator  
14 between MARTA and the Transit Union; and

15 WHEREAS, he received a host of community service awards and several keys to different  
16 cities throughout the world; and

17 WHEREAS, Reverend Doctor Orange served on the boards of the Atlanta/Fulton County  
18 Commission of Children and Youth; the Highlander Research and Education Center; the  
19 National Voting Rights Museum and Institute; the National Tenants Organization; the  
20 Southern Christian Leadership Conference/WOMEN, Inc.; and the Southern Organizing  
21 Committee; and

22 WHEREAS, Reverend Doctor Orange served on the Georgia Association of Black Elected  
23 Officials (GABEO) and, as ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, he worked with  
24 world leaders such as President Nelson Mandela, President Thabo Mbeki, and Premier Sbu  
25 Ndebele; and

26 WHEREAS, throughout his life, he held to the philosophy of nonviolence, reflecting peace  
27 with dignity.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
29 commend Reverend Doctor James Edward Orange, honor his illustrious career, and extend  
30 their most sincere condolences to his family and friends.

- 1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
- 2 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Reverend Doctor James
- 3 Edward Orange.